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¶1. Summary: In a meeting with visiting Dept. OSCE Coordinator Doug Wake, Dutch OSCE CiO Personal Representative Daan Everts stressed that the GoNL is looking ahead to a successful OSCE Ministerial December 1-2. To add to GoNL efforts throughout 2003, the Dutch are pushing hard for the Secretary's participation in the ministerial. Foreign

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Minister de Hoop Scheffer will remain in the office through the end of the ministerial. FM-designee Bot will take office either late December 2 or on December 3. Everts anticipates an agreement to hold a distinct follow-on anti-Semitism meeting in Berlin, although working level contacts insist that some EU members still oppose such a meeting. Contacts also provided Wake with Dutch thoughts in the lead-up to the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw. End summary.

¶2. Doug Wake, Dept. OSCE Coordinator, met with CiO Personal Representative Daan Everts in the Hague on September 29. Everts highlighted Dutch thinking in the lead-up to the OSCE Ministerial meeting in Maastricht. He believes both the meeting and the Ministerial documents will come together well, although he acknowledged that some work remains to be done to add additional substance to strategy for addressing the "threats to security and stability in the 21st century." Everts and Wake agreed that practical steps to implement the Action Plan on trafficking in persons, adopted by the OSCE Permanent Council in July 2003, should be one of the most substantive and practical outcomes of Maastricht. Everts said that he envisioned a new "coordinating mechanism" -- involving a senior official with a small Vienna-based staff -- that would have a mandate to follow Action Plan implementation and make fact-finding visits to countries with significant implementation problems. He stressed that there would be some budgetary implication to establishing such a mechanism and agreed that its functions should be oriented toward providing advice and coordinating assistance as well as identifying and highlighting problems. While Everts said that work was progressing satisfactorily toward completion of a separate OSCE economic strategy, emphasizing such issues as good governance, he expressed dismay that the Russian delegation in Vienna had recently suggested that negotiation of this document could be continued into 2004. Everts also asked for clarification of U.S. thoughts regarding internally displaced persons, restrictions on the religious freedom document, and HIV/AIDS. (Note: He confirmed these would be discussed at the HDIM in Warsaw, and speculated that a reference to HIV/AIDS might be included in the document on "threats to security and stability.") He agreed that discussions on several major issues remain, including Moldova (reftel), Chechnya, and a statement on possible OSCE involvement peacekeeping operations. Everts noted he is in close contact with both USOSCE Amb. Minikes and DAS Robert Bradtke, and will look for further conversations with both throughout the month of October.

Anti-Semitism and Racism/Xenophobia

¶3. Noting the particular interest of the U.S. in a follow-on anti-Semitism meeting, Everts stated that any problems were, in his opinion, solved. "As the Germans offered to host a follow-on meeting, the OSCE should accept." However, at the working level, OSCE Task Force Human Dimension lead Harm Hazewinkel stated that several EU countries still strongly opposed a follow-on meeting focused strictly on anti-Semitism rather than addressing all discrimination and tolerance issues. When Wake stressed that the U.S. also supports a separate follow-on to the highly successful September 2003 Vienna conference on racism and xenophobia, Hazewinkel advised that the easiest way for EU countries to "say yes" is for the U.S. to offer to host a follow-on racism conference. When advised that no such offer is on the table, Hazewinkel observed that Vienna might be an appropriate venue for follow-up, because the city hosts not only the OSCE but also an EU Monitoring Center that focuses on racism and related issues. (Note: He also mused that the Netherlands, which will hold the EU Presidency in the latter half of 2004, might consider hosting such a meeting, but he argued -- somewhat disingenuously -- that it might not be appropriate for the OSCE CiO to make such an offer.) Whatever the schedule of follow-up meetings, Hazewinkel suggested that it would be important to draw upon the experience of the EUMC and a

similar Council of Europe structure in developing OSCE mechanisms to track hate-crimes across the region. (Note: Subsequent to the reported here, Amb. Minikes and Wake discussed the issue with the EU troika on September 30 and EU reps discussed it among themselves October 1 in Brussels. End note.)

Participation by Secretary Powell

14. The GoNL will soon send a letter to the Secretary, formally requesting his participation in the Maastricht Ministerial meeting. (Note: The Dutch feel the Secretary's participation is vital to the success of Maastricht, and the OSCE shop is tailoring its draft opening-day schedule around such involvement. End Note.)

Dutch Thoughts - Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

15. Harm Hazewinkel summarized Dutch concerns for the HDIM. The Dutch will watch four issues closely: Roma/Sinti, Migrant workers, election standards, and Racism/Anti-Semitism/Xenophobia (see para 3). On Romat/Sinti, the Dutch are keen to have a tangible good for Maastricht, and will push hard at the HDIM to bring the Roma/Sinti NGOs to accept that the Action Plan is important for them. If the Roma/Sinti do not accept this, the Dutch are convinced that all efforts to date will fail in the long run. The GoNL therefore views the HDIM as a the last chance for any necessary changes to the Action Plan. On election standards, Hazewinkel stated that member states must ensure that any presented document not lower standards than to which the international community already agrees, and will watch to ensure that any agreed language is not detrimental to existing international standards. Finally, he said, the GoNL firmly believes that the issue of migrant workers does belong in the OSCE. (In saying so, therefore siding with Turkey instead of EU colleague Germany.) According to Hazewinkel, this issue also helps to balance the OSCE's traditional focus on countries East of Vienna, a quieter goal of the Dutch CiO. SOBEL